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09/734,086	12/11/2000	Charles Tresser	YOR920000598US1(13893)	3901

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^{10/31/2008}

EXAMINER

WINTER, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3685

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/31/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/734,086	Applicant(s) TRESSER ET AL.	
	Examiner JOHN M. WINTER	Art Unit 3685	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on July 17, 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,7,8,11,13 and 19-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 5, 7-8, 11, 13, and 19-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

1. The Applicants amendment filed on July 17, 2008 is hereby acknowledged, Claims 1-11, 13, and 19-24 remain pending.

Response to Arguments

2. The Applicant's arguments entered on February 19, 2008 have been fully considered.

In regards to the Applicants arguments of claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, the Examiner

States that Based on Supreme Court precedent and recent Federal Circuit decisions, § 101 process must (1) be tied to another statutory class (such as a particular apparatus) or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials) to a different state or thing. If neither of these requirements is met by the claim(s), the method is not a patent eligible process under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim 1, 7 and 13 discloses a mere nominal recitation of technology and fails to transform the underlying subject matter to a different state, therefore the claimed method is non-statutory and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 (*Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876)).

The Applicant states that Orrin, which was relied on to rejection each of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103, is not prior art as to the present application.

The Examiner states that the Orrin reference has been withdrawn.

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The Applicant states that there is no teaching or suggestion in this portion of Leighton, et al, or in any other portion of this reference), however, of having the owner of the title, using his or her public signature scheme, append a message to the title, where that message includes a public part of a signature scheme of the transferee.

The Examiner states that Leighton discloses "The preferred embodiment uses the on-line network public key 408 to encrypt the merchant public key 308 and the acquirer public key 310. Thus, only the bindery module 402 can decrypt the encrypted merchant public key 308 and the encrypted acquirer public key 310 with the on-line network private key 408. This prevents others from fraudulently acting as the bindery module 402."

- (a) The Examiner submits that the encrypting the merchants public key is analogous to the claimed feature of "append a message to the title, where that message includes a public part of a signature scheme of the transferee"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:
4. Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.
5. Claims 1-2, 5, 7-8, 11, 13, and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Based on Supreme Court precedent and recent Federal Circuit decisions, § 101 process must (1) be tied to another statutory class (such as a particular apparatus) or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials) to a different state or thing. If

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neither of these requirements is met by the claim(s), the method is not a patent eligible process under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim 1 discloses a mere nominal recitation of technology and fails to transform the underlying subject matter to a different state, therefore the claimed method is non-statutory and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 (*Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876)).

Claims 7 and 13 have similar limitations and are rejected for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
7. Claims 1-2, 5, 7-8, 11, 13, and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leighton et al (hereinafter Leighton - US 5,351,302) in view of Mital (US 5,903,652).
8. Claims 1, 7 and 13, Leighton substantially discloses the limitations of current application such as: creating digitally secure document using cryptography, concatenation of data strings, digital signature, etc [see the entire document particularly, Abstract; C1 L1 to C2 L16], creating titles for personal and real property, the title including, and (ii) a digital signature of

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the owner [C1 L35-L68], the owner transferring ownership of the financial instrument to another person, the owner, using a public signature schema of the owner, signing the title using a public signature scheme of the owner and appending to the title a public part of a signature scheme of said other person [C2 L51-L68].

Leighton does not explicitly disclose second party transferee and appending a message to the title, said message including a public part of a signature scheme, and a third party emitter issuing to the owner a title for a financial instrument and a message describing the title and how to contact the emitter.

However, Mital discloses a third party emitter issuing to the owner a title for a financial instrument and a message describing the title and how to contact the emitter [C2 L23-L62; C22 L24 to C23 L20; C27 L17-L53 - see distribute affidavit] to prepare a secure authenticated digital document with digital signature to be transmitted over the internet. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Leighton and include a third party emitter issuing to the owner a title for a financial instrument and a message describing the title and how to contact the emitter, as disclosed by Mital, to prepare a authenticated digital document for sending over the Internet.

Leighton discloses transferring ownership to other person or another person including a second party transferee and appending a message to the title, said message including a public part of a signature scheme.(Figure 11; Column 21, lines 28-56).

9. As per claims 2, 8, 20

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- (a) Leighton discloses wherein the transferring step includes the step of the emitter appending to the title a number indicating the number of successive owners of the title (ownership history) [C5 L13-L44].

10. As per claims 5, & 11

- (a) Leighton discloses wherein, the creating step includes the step of using a secure cryptographic generator to create the title [C1 L35-L45; C3 L31 to C4 L14].

12. As per claim 19,

- (a) Leighton discloses said signature scheme includes a private key and a public key; and the step of the owner signing the title includes the step of the owner using the public key of the signature scheme to encrypt the owner's signatures in the title [C1 L54 to C2 L16].

13. As per claim 20,

Leighton discloses appending to the title a number indicating the number of successive owners of the title; and said other person using said private key of the signature scheme to decrypt the owner's signatures and said number [C1 L54 to C2 L16; C2 L28-68; C4 L26-L68].

14. As per claims 21 and 23-24,

Lighthouse discloses public/private key and digital signature, digital title, string of information, the issuing step includes the step of making a serial number and a description of the title publicly available as soon as the title is created [C4 L3-L55]. Lighthouse does not explicitly disclose the digital signature of the emitter includes a public key of a public/private key pair of the emitter, the transferring step includes the steps of, after the public part of the signature scheme of said other person is appended to the title, communicating to the emitter said public part of the signature scheme of said other person, the emitter keeping said public part of the signature scheme of said other person and making said public part of the signature scheme of said other person available to potential future buyers, the emitter re-signing the title, and sending the re-signed title to said other person, and sending to the emitter a number N indicating the number of successive owners of the title, and the emitter re-signing the title, and sending the re-signed title to said other person, and a fourth party (another person) potential buyer asking the emitter to freeze the possibility of selling the title to anyone other than fourth party (another person) for a period of time, and a fourth party potential buyer using the emitter to prevent the sale of the title to anyone other than said fourth party for defined period of time the emitter posting that there is a new owner of the title and describing the public part of the signature scheme of said other person; a titles such as car title, mortgage title, etc is will known where the seller signs the title to transfer an ownership and this transfer of the title can be down by mail or faxed (it fax is acceptable as a legitimate document) where the seller signs the title and mails (faxes) it to the buyer (the car can be sold again and the new owner transfers the title to a new owner), and similar sending to the emitter a number N indicating the number of successive owners of the title (new owner new

line). Further buyer's down payment (layaway) are will known to ask the seller to keep/hold the item/property for the buyer for period of time (a fourth party potential buyer asking the emitter to freeze the possibility of selling the title to anyone other than said fourth party for a period of time and a fourth party potential buyer using the emitter to prevent the sale of the title to anyone other than said fourth party for defined period of time) and the following limitations are known: the emitter re-signing the title, and sending the re\signed title to said other person (same like original or first a new owner and current owner/seller), and the emitter posting that there is a new owner of the title and describing the public part of the signature scheme of said other person.

Mital discloses the digital signature of the emitter includes a public key of a public/private key pair of the emitter, the issuing step includes the step of making a serial number and a description of the title publicly available as soon as the title is created [C2 L17-L62; C4 L56-L61; C18 L11 to C19 L50];

the transferring step includes the steps of, after the public part of the signature scheme of said other person is appended to the title, communicating to the emitter said public part of the signature scheme of said other person [C8 L15-L18],

the emitter keeping said public part of the signature scheme of said other person and making said public part of the signature scheme of said other person available to potential future buyers [C2 L40-L62] to provide automatic transfer of secure document using encryptions. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosure of Leighton further include encrypted legal document

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(affidavit), as disclosed by Mital and provide an electronic verifiable legal document with digital signature to be transmitted over the internet.

15. As per Claim 21,

Lighthouse discloses sharing the signing key between the set of servers, wherein each of the servers has one of said partial keys [C2 L51-L68 - public key is know to others and digital signal has part of the private key]. Lighthouse does not explicitly the emitter is comprised of a set S of geographically distributed servers; and the issuing step includes the steps of using a signing key to make the digital signature of the emitter, said signing key including a plurality of partial keys, at least some of the servers signing the title using a distributed protocol and using the partial keys of the servers, considering the title signed by the emitter only if a defined subset of the S servers sign the title, using specified hardware to issue the title, and using the specified hardware to print lists of title numbers and descriptions of the public part of the signature scheme used by the emitter. However, Mital discloses the emitter is comprised of a set S of geographically distributed servers; and the issuing step includes the steps of using a signing key to make the digital signature of the emitter, said signing key including a plurality of partial keys [C2 L17-L62; C9 L19-L55], at least some of the servers signing the title using a distributed protocol (DES encryption) and using the partial keys (portion of key) of the servers [C2 L17-L62], considering the title signed by the emitter only if a defined subset of the S servers sign the title (see merchant computer) [C27 L17-L62; C28 L], using specified hardware to issue the title, and using the specified hardware to print lists

of title numbers and descriptions of the public part of the signature scheme used by the emitter (see transmitting the document such as bill to customer where he/she can print) [C15 L15-L18] to establish a secure distributed protocol to allow the distribution of the secure digital document over the internet. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the disclosures of Leighton, and Mital, to establish secure communication protocols and monitors secured transactions.

16. Claim 3-4, 9-10 & 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leighton and Mital as applied to claims 1, 7, 13 above, and further in view of Muftic (US 5,850,442).

17. As per Claims 3-4, 9-10 & 15-16

Leighton discloses creating digital secure encrypted document (titles) using "public-key cryptosystem" [C1 L1 to C2 L16; C3 L31 to C4 L14]. Leighton or Mital does not explicitly disclose owner keeping the public part of the signature of the other person and making said public part available to potential subsequent buyers and comprising the step of sending the title, with the signature of the owner made using the public signature scheme of the owner, to said other person. However, Muftic discloses these steps [Abstract, Figures 17, 25-27; C1 L32 to C8 L7; C7 L32-L63; C7 L1-L5; C18 L35-L67] to conduct secure electronic commercial transaction over the network, which uses public key cryptography. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art

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to combine the disclosures of Leighton, Mital, and Muftic to permit secure transaction to undertake world wide transparently over the Internet.

18. Claims 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leighton, Mital as applied to claims 5, 11, 17 above, and further in view of Arbaugh et al (US 6,185,678).

19. As per claim 6,

(a) Leighton, Mital does not explicitly disclose wherein the secure cryptographic generator is an IBM 4758. However, Arbaugh et al discloses this step to allow software and data to be transferred between computer system [C1 L20-67; C4 L33-L65; C7 L6-L27; C9 L11-60]. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the disclosures of Leighton, Mital and Arbaugh et al to permit secure transaction to undertake over the Internet.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to

37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN M. WINTER whose telephone number is (571)272-6713. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Calvin Hewitt can be reached on (571) 272-6709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMW

/Calvin L Hewitt II/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3685